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Cleaning Products

Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University

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Cleaning Products

Cooperative Extension Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
South Dakota State University, Brookings

The product lists below are by no means complete. Some may be more readily available in your area than others. Although brand names are used, no endorsement is intended nor is criticism implied of those not mentioned. These are merely examples.

Many types of cleaning products are on the market. They are in several forms—solid cakes, granular and powder, liquid and spray. The kind of cleaning product you like and what you intend to use it for will help you decide the type to buy. Read the label on the product before you buy it to be sure it is right for the job you intend it to do. When you use it, follow the instructions on the label *exactly*.

Cleaning products in the home can be dangerous if you are not careful. For example, if two cleaning

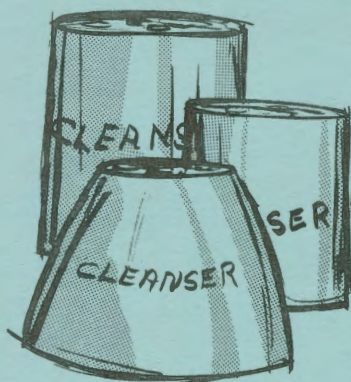
agents are combined, poisonous gases may result. This can result in serious injury—possibly death. You may also destroy the ability of the product to do its job. Therefore, **NEVER MIX CLEANING AGENTS. NEVER MIX CHLORINE BLEACH** with another cleaning agent. Be sure to *keep all cleaning agents out of the reach of children*.

What was a good cleaning method years ago may not be good today. Use products that have been tested and proved effective . . . **NOT HOMEMADE REMEDIES.**

CLEANING PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

Cleaners

Examples:
Bon Ami
Bab-o
Babbit
Comet
Dutch Cleanser
White Magic



Liquids

Examples:
Lestoil
Mr. Clean
Pinesol
Top Job
Liquid Ajax
Handy Andy
Texize 409
Lysol Cleaner
Duro
Janitor in a Drum
Bo Peep
Parsons Sudsy
Parsons Pine
Parsons Clear
Sparkle-x
Kleen Kut



These come in a powdered form and contain fine abrasive particles which help loosen soils. The abrasive content of a cleanser varies from fine to coarse. Because abrasives will scratch slightly, you should never use cleansers of this type on chrome or other highly polished metal silverware, porcelain enamel, or the various non-stick pan finishes, such as Teflon.

A liquid detergent may contain solvents or ammonia for special cleaning action. You usually dilute them with water for general use. You can use them full strength for stubborn spots. They usually should be thoroughly rinsed. Follow directions on the label.

"Cleaning Products" was prepared by Carol Jo Thompson, area home furnishings specialist, Cooperative Extension Service, South Dakota State University.

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Crystallines

Examples:

20 Mule Team
Perfex
Soilax
Spic & Span
Kitchen Klatter

Crystallines are powdered household cleaners made of detergent plus additional varied ingredients to help in the cleaning process. These cleaners must be dissolved in water to make a cleaning solution. Follow the directions on the label.



Spray

Examples:

Dow
Texize Fantastik 409

Sprays are similar to a liquid or crystalline cleaner in purpose. The liquid contents have been placed in a can under pressure. *Be Sure to Follow the Directions on the Label.* Some cleaners, when sprayed directly on a surface, can damage the finish. That type of cleaner is instead first sprayed on a cloth which is used to clean the surface and to wipe it dry.



Specialized Cleaners

Examples:

Metal Cleaners
Plastic Cleaners
Glass Cleaners
Oven Cleaners
Rust Removers
Floor Cleaners
Rug Cleaners
Wall Cleaners
Upholstery Cleaners
Toilet Bowl Cleaners

These products are designed for a specific purpose or surface. They usually have ingredients specifically designed for cleaning a given surface. They should be used *only* as suggested on the label. They may be found in various forms—solid cakes, granular and powder, liquid and spray.

Cleaning Products Do Their Work By:

- Making the water "wetter."
- Breaking up greasy soil.
- Breaking up solid dirt and distributing it throughout the solution.
- Inactivating hard water minerals.

You Do Your Work By:

- Reading and following label directions.
- Using the proper amount of the product.
- Using the correct water temperature.
- Allowing enough time for the cleaning agent to work.
- Using enough scrubbing action.
- Using a clean solution and changing the solution when needed.